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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

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6 April 1977

Argentina: Montonero's Financial Assets Seized

The Montonero's ability to carry out terrorist operations is likely to be severely curtailed as a result of the loss of about 85 million U.S. dollars of the group's funds to Argentine security officials. The Montonero official in charge of finances was captured by the security forces last February. During questioning he provided detailed information on the terrorist organization's financial structure, including the location of deposits in Europe.

Escorted by security officers, the former Montonero treasurer traveled to Madrid, where he withdrew $14 million from a bank account. The group then proceeded to Geneva, Switzerland, where some $50 million was taken from an account and stock certificates of an unknown value were removed from a safe-deposit box. The money from the Geneva account was given to the Argentine embassy in Bern which sent it to Buenos Aires by means of the embassy's diplomatic pouch. The $14 million acquired in Madrid was carried back to Argentina by the group. As of late March $1-2 million of the money obtained in Europe was missing, apparently taken by one of the security officials who went on the trip. Shortly after their return, the former Montonero led officials to a safesite in Cordoba where $17 million was found and also to a site in Mendoza where $4 million had been hidden.

Most of the Montonero funds were probably from its kidnaping activities. From the early 1970s until the end of 1975 the Montoneros, like other terrorist groups and bands of common criminals, engaged in kidnapings. Ransoms paid for the release of their victims were often quite high. The Montoneros reportedly received between $30-60 million for the release of two businessmen, the Born brothers, in 1974. Tough security measures by the government as well as the departure of many non-Argentine business representatives who have been prime targets for kidnapers, has resulted in a sharp decline in the amount of ransom collected by the various Argentine groups. 3.5(c)

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6 April 1977

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 28 March 1977

Place: Argentina, Buenos Aires

Explosion in Buenos Aires at Building Housing Soviets

A bomb exploded outside a Buenos Aires building containing the offices of the Soviet commercial attache and the residences of members of the Soviet embassy. No one was injured. The attack was one of several bombings in the city on the same night.

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TAB C—Potential Terrorist Targets

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13 April 1977

BACKGROUND ARTICLE

Foreign Activity of the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta

Almost since the founding of the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta (JCR) by the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) of Argentina, the National Liberation Movement/Tupamaros (MLN/Tupamaros) of Uruguay, the National Liberation Army (ELN) of Bolivia, and the Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MIR) of Chile during February 1974, there has been a simultaneous initiation of activity by Latin American exiles in Europe under the JCR banner. JCR membership was originally concentrated in France, with substantial numbers also in Sweden, Italy, and Portugal.

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By September 1976, however, JCR activity both in Latin America and abroad was almost at a standstill; only the Latin American Press Agency (APAL), based in France and operated by the MLN/Tupamaros, was continuing propaganda activity on a significant scale. Some attempts were being made by the JCR exiles to proselytize in Latin American exile colonies, particularly among student groups, and in solidarity organizations, but this brought very little return for the investment of time and effort.

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A JCR congress, originally set for October 1976, was finally held in Rome in November 1976.

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The main items on the agenda were a short resume of revolutionary activity in Latin America since the Cuban revolution, a description of the current revolutionary situation, individual reports on the situation in JCR members' countries, and an assessment of the JCR and agreements on basic guidelines. JCR representatives agreed to establish the principal base of the JCR in a country other than that of any of the members. This was felt necessary in view of the success of countersubversive operations by several Latin American governments and because of the internal schism in the JCR caused by the diverse policies of its constituency. The JCR membership split when opposing factions of the MLN/Tupamaros

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began struggling for overall control of their organization. Notwithstanding these divisions, the JCR congress agreed that its Central Bureau should meet every six months and it established a permanent executive secretariat which would attempt to locate its headquarters in a Latin American country, with Mexico being selected as the optimum choice.

The congress decreed that the JCR secretariat should be charged with preparing statutes for the JCR, deciding JCR strategy and plans, publishing the third issue of the JCR magazine, and studying the internal dissensions of the MLN/Tupamaros.

The JCR's most recent activities have included providing documentation, safe havens, and other support to members of the Bolivian ELN who have been trained in Cuba and are scheduled to be sent to Europe and infiltrated back into Bolivia. They will serve there as a base for future anti-Bolivian government guerrilla activities.

The JCR propaganda mechanism has contacts with approximately 16 different organizations in France. Included are such groups as the Committee for the Support of the Struggle of the Argentine People, the Solidarity Committee for the Struggle of the Ecuadorean People, and the Guatemalan Solidarity group. The JCR also publishes a bulletin in Venezuela entitled the "Noticia Tres."

As of April 1977, JCR activity in Italy is non-existent, with the ERP and the MIR having decided to completely abandon direct participation, utilizing instead the services of the Antifascist Committee Against Repression in Argentina (CAFRA), which has the support of the Italian Communist Party (PCI). An Argentine ERP member who travels between Rome and Milan is the CAFRA representative in contact with the PCI. The MLN/Tupamaros are not engaging in any public activity in Italy, while the ELN of Bolivia is no longer actively represented there. The CAFRA also serves as a contact point between the ERP and the Montoneros of Argentina. The Montoneros, however, while nominally belonging to CAFRA, continue to carry on activities separate from the ERP and CAFRA because they object to CAFRA's close association with the PCI. The Montonero leadership maintains that the PCI does not recognize either the Montoneros, the ERP, or other groups in CAFRA as legitimate political alternatives to the present Argentine government. They contend that the PCI is using CAFRA for its own political objectives in Italy.

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NR

Date: 11 April 1977

Place: Argentina, Buenos Aires

Argentine Executive of U.S.-connected Company Slain

An Argentine executive of the Surrey Company, which operates under a license from General Motors Corporation, was shot and killed in Buenos Aires on 11 April. Anonymous callers to Buenos Aires newspapers claimed the Montoneros were responsible for the killing.

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